

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4 and 6-14 are pending in the application. Claims 9-14 are rejected. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 8, 2008.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 3, 4, and 6-8 have been allowed.

On the Merits

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Koo (US 6,006,337). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 9:

The Examiner argues that the reference Koo teaches all of the features of claim 9, particularly the “monitoring circuit” and “controller” features. Koo teaches a keypad that scans the user’s key inputs and then outputs those signals according to the key inputs. The reference also teaches a microcontroller which is connected to the system bus and produces PMS-control signals after receiving control signals from a keypad. See, col. 6, lines 16-30 of Koo.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the "monitoring circuit" of claim 9 is taught by Koo. Claim 9 calls for "a monitoring circuit for monitoring the reproduction *output state* of said reproducer." (emphasis added). Koo discloses a keypad that scans the key *inputs* to the reproducer. See, col. 6, lines 16-30 of Koo. The keypad of the reference monitors the user's key *inputs* and does not monitor the *output* of a reproducer as in claim 9. Therefore, the "monitoring circuit" of claim 9 is not taught by Koo.

In addition, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's characterization of the reference Koo as teaching the "controller" feature of claim 9. Claim 9 calls for "a controller receiving a signal representing the operating state of said switch and a signal outputted by said monitoring circuit for controlling the supply of driving power to said reproducer and said output circuit on the basis of the two signals." The Examiner cites in the Office Action col. 6, lines 16-30 as a basis for the argument that the "controller" feature of claim 9 is taught by Koo.

However, the passage cited by the Examiner does not contain any information regarding the microcontroller of the reference so as to indicate that the microcontroller bases its outputs on two input signals. The remainder of the reference does not provide support for the Examiner's assertion either. The microcontroller of the reference receives control signals from a keypad and then produces outputs in the form of PMS-control signals and CD-control signals. See, Abstract

and col. 3, lines 15-26 of Koo. The microcontroller of the reference does not base its output signal on two input signals as in Claim 9 of the Application.

Also, the reference does not disclose “*controlling the supply of driving power to said reproducer and said output circuit.*” The reference merely discloses a microcontroller that controls power to a reproducer. The reference does not disclose the additional feature of “controlling the supply of driving power to...said output circuit.” Therefore, we believe that the Examiner has mischaracterized the reference and that the “controller” feature of claim 9 is in fact not taught by the reference.

Independent Claim 10

The Examiner makes similar arguments regarding independent claim 10 to those made for independent claim 9. Applicants present the same arguments for claim 10 as were presented above for claim 9.

However, claim 10 includes the additional feature of “controlling the supply of driving power to said reproducer, *said output circuit, and said monitoring circuit.*” As in claim 9, the Examiner only presents an argument for the supplying of driving power to the reproducer and does point out the supply of driving power to either the output circuit or the monitoring circuit in the reference. The reference only discloses the providing of signals from a microcontroller to a reproducer. Therefore, the reference does not teach all of the features of claim 10, particularly

“controlling the supply of driving power to said reproducer, *said output circuit, and said monitoring circuit.*”

Independent Claim 11

The Examiner makes similar arguments regarding independent claim 11 to those made for independent claim 9. Specifically, Applicants argue that the “controller receiving a signal outputted by said monitoring circuit” is not taught by the reference and we present the same arguments regarding this claimed feature as were presented above for claim 9. Therefore, the reference does not teach all of the features of claim 11.

Independent Claim 12

The Examiner makes similar arguments regarding independent claim 11 to those made for independent claim 9. Applicants present the same arguments for claim 10 as were presented above for claim 9.

However, claim 12 includes the additional feature of “controlling the supply of driving power to said reproducer *and said monitoring circuit.*” As in claim 9, the Examiner only presents an argument for the supplying of driving power to the reproducer and does point out the supply of driving power to the monitoring circuit in the reference. The reference only discloses the providing of signals from a microcontroller to a reproducer. Therefore, the reference does

not teach all of the features of claim 12, particularly “controlling the supply of driving power to said reproducer *and said monitoring circuit.*”

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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